

Application No. 09/902,077
Amendment Dated 16 January 2004
Reply to Office Action of 16 July 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

We claim:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously amended) A cutting implement usable with a vehicle, the implement comprising:

- a) first and second laterally spaced and adjacent cutting chambers, both chambers having an interior surface and an exterior surface, the interior surfaces of both chambers having a front wall;
- b) a discharge opening adjacent the first chamber for allowing material to exit the first chamber;
- c) a cutting blade housed within each chamber for cutting vegetation in the path of the implement, each of the blades being rotatable so as to define a generally horizontal cutting plane, each of the rotating blades generating a stream of air to convey the cut vegetation outwardly from its edge when it rotates with the stream being directed against and along the front wall; and
- d) a baffle joined to the front walls of the first and second chambers and including first and second segments with each of the segments being generally above the cutting plane of the blades therein, at least one of the segments being inclined relative to the other thereof to form a ramp along which the stream of the second chamber flows after it leaves the edge of its respective cutting blade.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously amended) The implement as recited in claim 6 wherein:

the baffle reduces the stream or flow of cut vegetation below its first and second segments to permit the vegetation bent over by the front walls of the first and second chambers to straighten so as to extend into the cutting plane of the blade of at least the second chamber.

9. (Original) The implement as recited in claim 6 wherein:

the baffle constricts the area of flow available for the streams directed therealong and routes the stream from the second chamber above the baffle and the stream of the first chamber below the baffle.

10. (Original) The implement as recited in claim 9 wherein:

the baffle extends laterally inwardly from the front walls of the chambers.

11. (Original) The implement as recited in claim 8 wherein:

the baffle extends laterally inwardly from the front walls of the chambers.

12. (Previously amended) A cutting implement usable with a vehicle, the implement comprising:

a) a plurality of adjacent cutting chambers, the chambers being defined in part by a continuous front wall on an interior thereof and each having a top surface therein;

b) a cutting blade housed within each of the chambers, each of the blades being rotatable within its chamber and defining a cutting plane therein for the cutting of vegetation in the path of the implement, each of the blades causing a respective stream of air and vegetation to flow when it rotates and further causing its stream to be directed against and laterally along the front wall of its respective chamber, one of the blades further directing its respective stream along the front wall of an adjacent chamber; and

c) a baffle which is joined to the front walls of the adjacent chambers and which includes first and second segments, each segment being generally above the cutting plane of the blades in the adjacent chambers, at least one of the segments being inclined relative to the other thereof to form a ramp along which the stream of one of the chambers flows after it leaves the edge of its respective cutting blade.

13. (Previously re-presented) A cutting implement usable with a vehicle, the implement comprising:

- a) first and second laterally spaced and adjacent cutting chambers, both chambers having an interior surface and an exterior surface, the interior surfaces of both chambers having a front wall;
- b) a discharge opening adjacent the first chamber for allowing material to exit the first chamber;
- c) a cutting blade housed within each chamber for cutting vegetation in the path of the implement, each of the blades being rotatable so as to define a generally horizontal cutting plane, each of the rotating blades generating a stream of air to convey the cut vegetation outwardly from its edge when it rotates with the stream being directed against and along the front wall; and
- d) a baffle joined to the front walls of the first and second chambers and including first and second portions with each of the portions being generally above the cutting plane of the blades therein, at least one of the portions being inclined relative to the other thereof to form a ramp along which the stream of the second chamber flows after it leaves the edge of its respective cutting blade, the baffle constricting the area of flow available for the streams directed therealong and routing the stream from the second chamber above the baffle and the stream of the first chamber below the baffle.

14. (Previously re-presented) A cutting implement usable with a vehicle, the implement comprising:

- a) first and second laterally spaced and adjacent cutting chambers, both chambers having an interior surface and an exterior surface, the interior surfaces of both chambers having a front wall;
- b) a discharge opening adjacent the first chamber for allowing material to exit the first chamber;
- c) a cutting blade housed within each chamber for cutting vegetation in the path of the implement, each of the blades being rotatable so as to define a generally horizontal cutting plane, each of the rotating blades generating a stream of air to convey the cut vegetation outwardly from its edge when it rotates with the stream being directed against and along the front wall; and

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d) a baffle joined to the front walls of the first and second chambers and extending laterally inwardly from the front walls of the chambers, the baffle including first and second portions with each of the portions being generally above the cutting plane of the blades therein, at least one of the portions being inclined relative to the other thereof to form a ramp along which the stream of the second chamber flows after it leaves the edge of its respective cutting blade, the baffle constricting the area of flow available for the streams directed therealong and routing the stream from the second chamber above the baffle and the stream of the first chamber below the baffle.